

The Command Structure, Private through Major General.

Rank	Duties
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Field Grades

Major General	Commands a Division
Brigadier General	Commands a Brigade
Colonel	Commands a Regiment or Battalion
Lieutenant Colonel	Assists the Colonel in Administration and on the Field
Major	Assists the Colonel in Administration and on the Field
Adjutant	A Lieutenant who assists the Colonel
Sergeant Major	A Sergeant who assist the Colonel and Adjutant

Company Grades

Captain	Company
1 st Lieutenant	Assists the Captain
2 nd Lieutenant	Assists the Captain
3 rd Lieutenant	Assists the Captain (not always filled)
1 st Sergeant	Assists the Captain and “Right Guide” of the Company
2 nd Sergeant	Assists the Captain and “Left Guide” of the Company
3 rd Sergeant	Assists the Captain and 1 st Sergeant
4 th Sergeant	Assists the Captain and 1 st Sergeant
5 th Sergeant	Assists the Captain and 1 st Sergeant
Corporal	Assists the Sergeants

- 1 division = 2 to 3 brigades
- 1 brigade = 2 to 3 regiments or battalions
- 1 regiment = 10 companies
- A battalion is composed of a number of companies less than 10 but greater than 1.
- *1 company = 2 platoons
- 1 platoon = 2 sections

**U.S. Army Regulations* (1821) specify a company must number at least 28, not counting officers and sergeants.

- Battalions can be commanded by a lieutenant colonel or a major, depending on the number of companies present.
- Absent officers are replaced by the next senior officer present.
- Absent NCOs are replaced by the next senior NCO present.
- Commissioned officers get their authority from Congress.
- NCOs get their authority from their Colonels and Captains.

List of Field Officers, Company Officers, and NCOs

Colonel	Captain
Lieutenant Colonel	1 st Lieutenant
Major	2 nd Lieutenant
Adjutant	1 st Sergeant
Sergeant Major	2 nd Sergeant
Quartermaster	3 rd Sergeant
Commissary	4 th Sergeant
Ordnance	5 th Sergeant
	Corporals

[Note: The duties and responsibilities associated with the battalion positions listed on the left-hand column correspond to the duties and responsibilities with the company positions on the right-hand column. Thus, the colonel is to the battalion what the captain is to the company; the lieutenant colonel is to the battalion what the 1st lieutenant is to the company; the major is to the battalion what the 2nd lieutenant is to the company; the adjutant is to the battalion what the 1st sergeant is to the company; the sergeant major is to the battalion what the 2nd sergeant is to the company; the battalion NCO staff is to the battalion what the company NCO staff is to the company.

The successful running of a battalion depends on all officers and noncommissioned officers knowing their respective duties. Moreover, each officer and noncommissioned officer must know the duties of the position both above as they have to assume the duties of a superior or instruct those below them in their duties.

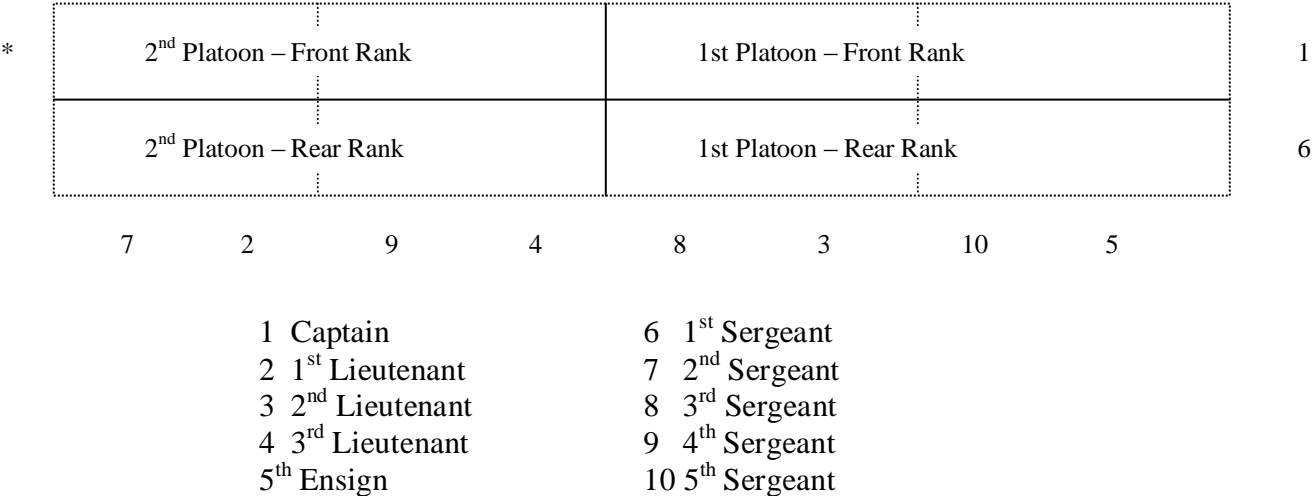
There is no one perfect manual for instruction. The most readily available is *An Abstract of Scott's Tactics* (1839). Many original copies are available for purchase. However, this manual is also available in reprint and on the web at Google Book and the Drill Network. Other period manuals on the web include:

Isaac Maltby, *The Elements of War* (1811);
William Duane, *Handbook for Infantry* (1814);
Pierce Darrow, *Scott's Militia Tactics* (1821);
Pierce Darrow, *National Militia Standard* (1822);
Dyckman, J. G., *The American Militia Officer's Manual* (1825);
Samuel Cooper, *A Concise System of Instruction for Militia & Volunteers* (1836);
Winfield Scott, *Scott's Tactics* (1861 edition);
Gal, Eugene L.E., *School of the Guide* (1862).

[NOTE: Those who wish to hold the position of officers and noncommissioned officers must be knowledgeable about the military literature of the period. I have *The U.S. Army Regulation* (1821) available in digital form on disk I'd be happy to share with anyone who needs a copy. I highly recommend Dyckman's *The American Militia Officer's Manual* (1825). R.B.W.]

Diagram of a Company, Showing Its Parts and the Positions of Officers and NCOs.

A Company in Line of Battle



[Note: Most living history companies are too small for the 2nd and 3rd Lieutenants and Ensign or for a full complement of Sergeants.]

*When a company is acting alone or on the left flank of the battalion, the 2nd Sergeant is positioned on the left of the front rank.

The company is further divided into 4 sections, 2 per platoon.

Corporals are posted, from right of the company to the left:

- Front rank of 1st platoon on the right flank,
- Front rank of 1st platoon on the left flank,
- Front rank of 2nd platoon on the right flank,
- Front rank of 2nd platoon on the left flank.

The distance between the front and rear rank is 13”

A Method for Forming & Sizing a Company.

The following is a simple way to form and size a company.

Form the men on a line with the tallest on the right and the shortest on the left. Order the men to count off, beginning on the right and progressing to the left. Order the even numbered men to take two steps to the rear. Dress the two ranks to the right on the right company guide (1st sergeant). The company is now sized and properly formed and the platoon and section splits can be identified. R.B.W.

The Hand Drill.

Instructions

Have your student captain form the class into two ranks. [See method of forming a company.] The student captain will then give the following commands to the company, which each member will follow.

Attention-COMPANY! (Stand straight and no talking in the ranks.)

Right Hand-UP! (Raise the right arm straight up.)

Right Hand-DOWN! (Lower the right arm by the side.)

Left Hand-UP! (Raise the left arm straight up.)

Left Hand-DOWN! (Lower the left arm by the side.)

Both Hands-UP! (Raise both arms straight up.)

Both Hands-DOWN! (Lower both arms by the side.)

Right Hand-OUT! (Raise the right arm straight out.)

Right Hand-DOWN! (Lower the right arm by the side.)

Left Hand-OUT! (Raise the left arm straight out.)

Left Hand-DOWN! (Lower the left arm by the side.)

Both Hands-OUT! (Raise both arms straight up.)

Both Hands-DOWN! (Lower both arms by the side.)

About-Face! (Turn around and face the rear.)

After the student captain has gone through the commands in this order, the student captain may give them in any order the student captain chooses.

When the exercise is complete, the student captain will command:

Break Ranks-March! (The company is dismissed.)

R.B.W.